

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

These amendments introduce no new matter and support for the amendment is replete throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. These amendments are made without prejudice and are not to be construed as abandonment of the previously claimed subject matter, or agreement with any objection or rejection of record.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of controlling carotenoid accumulation in at least one pineapple cell, the method comprising introducing at least one carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator into said pineapple cell, wherein said carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator controls accumulation of carotenoid in said pineapple cell, and wherein said carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator comprises at least one nucleic acid segment in a sense or antisense orientation to a coding nucleic acid that encodes at least one carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide, which nucleic acid segment stably integrates into the genome of said pineapple cell.
2. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein said pineapple cell is an embryogenic cell, an embryogenic callus cell, an organogenic cell, or an organogenic callus cell.
- 3-8. **(Cancelled)**
9. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein said carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator controls accumulation of one or more carotenoids that are selected from group consisting of: phytoene, phytofluene, ζ -carotene, neurosporene, δ -carotene, γ -carotene, α -carotene, β -carotene, apocarotenal, lycopene, canthaxanthin, zeaxanthin, and lutein.

10-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid segment is linked to a selectable marker.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid segment is operably linked to a constitutive promoter, a tissue-specific promoter or to an inducible promoter.

17-30. (Cancelled).

31 (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said pineapple cell is an organogenic cell produced by culturing at least one meristemic cell.

32 (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein said meristemic cell is a non-apical meristemic cell.

33 (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein said culturing comprises culturing said meristemic cell to produce at least one shoot, and culturing at least one explant from said shoot to produce said organogenic cell.

34-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) A method of altering pineapple fruit coloration, the method comprising introducing at least one carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator into at least one pineapple plant, wherein said carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator controls accumulation of at least one colored carotenoid in said pineapple fruit, thereby altering said coloration of said pineapple fruit, and wherein said carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator comprises at least one nucleic acid segment in a sense or antisense orientation to a coding nucleic acid that encodes at least one carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide, which nucleic acid segment stably integrates into the genome of said pineapple plant.

40-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein said colored carotenoid is selected from group consisting of: phytoene, phytofluene, ζ -carotene, neurosporene, δ -carotene, γ -carotene, α -carotene, β -carotene, apocarotenal, lycopene, canthaxanthin, zeaxanthin, and lutein.

44-65. (Cancelled)

66. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein said carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator is introduced into at least one pineapple cell from which said pineapple plant is regenerated.

67-68. (Cancelled)

69. (Previously Presented) A pineapple cell that comprises at least one introduced carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator, which carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator controls accumulation of carotenoid in said pineapple cell, and wherein said carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator comprises at least one nucleic acid segment in a sense or antisense orientation to a coding nucleic acid that encodes at least one carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide that is selected from the group consisting of: an isopentenyl diphosphate isomerase, a geranylgeranyl pyrophosphate synthase, a phytoene synthase, a phytoene desaturase, a ζ -carotene desaturase, a lycopene β -cyclase, a lycopene ϵ -cyclase, a β -carotene hydroxylase, and an ϵ -hydroxylase.

70 (Previously Presented) The pineapple cell of claim 69, wherein said pineapple cell is an embryogenic cell, an embryogenic callus cell, an organogenic cell, or an organogenic callus cell.

71-76. (Cancelled).

77. (Original). The pineapple cell of claim 69, wherein said carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator controls accumulation of one or more carotenoids that are selected from group consisting of: phytoene, phytofluene, ζ -carotene, neurosporene,

δ -carotene, γ -carotene, α -carotene, β -carotene, apocarotenal, lycopene, canthaxanthin, zeaxanthin, and lutein.

78-96. (Cancelled).

97. (Original). A pineapple plant that is regenerated from said pineapple cell of claim 69.

98-106 (Cancelled).

107. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator comprises at least one nucleic acid segment selected from:

- (a) a sense nucleic acid segment that corresponds to at least a portion of at least one endogenous carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide gene; and
- (b) an antisense nucleic acid segment that corresponds to at least a portion of at least one endogenous carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide gene;

108. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator comprises at least one nucleic acid segment, which when expressed in said pineapple cell, produces a double stranded RNA (dsRNA) that targets the destruction of a target endogenous mRNA encoding a carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide.

109. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said pineapple cell further comprises at least a second carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator comprising at least one nucleic acid segment, which when expressed in said pineapple cell, produces a double stranded RNA (dsRNA) that targets the destruction of a target endogenous mRNA encoding a carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide.

110. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein said carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator comprises at least one nucleic acid segment selected from:

- (a) a sense nucleic acid segment that corresponds to at least a portion of at least one endogenous carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide gene; and

- (b) an antisense nucleic acid segment that corresponds to at least a portion of at least one endogenous carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide gene.

111. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein said carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator comprises at least one nucleic acid segment, which when expressed in said pineapple cell, produces a double stranded RNA (dsRNA) that targets the destruction of a target endogenous mRNA encoding a carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide.

112. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein said pineapple plant further comprises at least a second carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator comprising at least one nucleic acid segment, which when expressed in said pineapple plant, produces a double stranded RNA (dsRNA) that targets the destruction of a target endogenous mRNA encoding a carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide.

113. (New) The pineapple cell of claim 69, wherein said carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator comprises at least one nucleic acid segment selected from:

- (a) a sense nucleic acid segment that corresponds to at least a portion of at least one endogenous carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide gene;
- (b) an antisense nucleic acid segment that corresponds to at least a portion of at least one endogenous carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide gene.

114. (New) The pineapple cell of claim 69, wherein said carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator comprises at least one nucleic acid segment, which when expressed in said pineapple cell produces a double stranded RNA (dsRNA) that targets the destruction of a target endogenous mRNA encoding a carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide.

115. (New) The pineapple cell of claim 69, wherein said pineapple cell further comprises at least a second carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator comprising at least one nucleic acid segment, which when expressed in said pineapple

plant produces a double stranded RNA (dsRNA) that targets the destruction of a target endogenous mRNA encoding a carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide.

116. (New) A method of modifying the level of lycopene in a pineapple plant, the method comprising expressing a carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator comprising an RNA that suppresses endogenous lycopene β -cyclase or endogenous lycopene ϵ -cyclase expression.

117. (New) The method of claim 116, wherein the carotenoid biosynthetic polypeptide expression regulator is a sense nucleic acid segment corresponding to a coding region of the lycopene β -cyclase or the lycopene ϵ -cyclase.